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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1670
INFO RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 4394
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 6472
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 8369
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 3628
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 0841
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 6880
RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 3088
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 5428
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 6728
RUEHGH/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI 0553
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 7280
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC
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UNCLAS TOKYO 000629

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

USTR FOR AUSTR CUTLER, BEEMAN, HALLOWAY
NSC FOR LOI, RUSSELL
PARIS FOR USOECD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EFIN ECON PGOV JA

SUBJECT: CHARGE RAISES JAPAN POST NEW INSURANCE PRODUCT
WITH PM'S OFFICE

Ref: Tokyo 616
Tokyo 617

¶1. (U) Sensitive but Unclassified. Not for Internet
distribution.

¶2. (SBU) The Charge telephoned Assistant Chief Cabinet
Secretary Keiichi Hayashi March 19 to express U.S. concerns
about a statement reported in the press by Minister for
Internal Affairs and Communications Hatoyama in support of
additional steps taken by Japan Post Insurance toward the
issuance of a new cancer product and that also directly
challenged U.S. industry (reflets). Charge said the United
States and Japan had been discussing the Japan Post
privatization process for many years and that this
statement, if true, appeared to violate GOJ commitments in
these talks.

¶3. (SBU) Hayashi told the Charge he was unaware of the
press reports, but acknowledged the sensitivity of the
issue in Washington and the USG's concerns. The GOJ will
adhere to the product application procedures and principles
laid out in Japan's privatization laws, he said. The
Charge noted that if the press report was in error, it
would be helpful for MIC to correct the record. Hayashi
said he would convey the Charge's expression of concern to
MIC.

ZUMWALT